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Dasysiphonia Japonica: Is it here?

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Nature Note: Findings from the Field: Middle School Journal

Dasysiphonia japonica: Is it here?

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Mrs. Wright
January 31, 2020

An invasive algae species is causing many problems on beaches in Maine. To prove this, according to Bangor Daily News, “The smell out (problem) is being caused by the seaweed, which can be found all along the shore.”

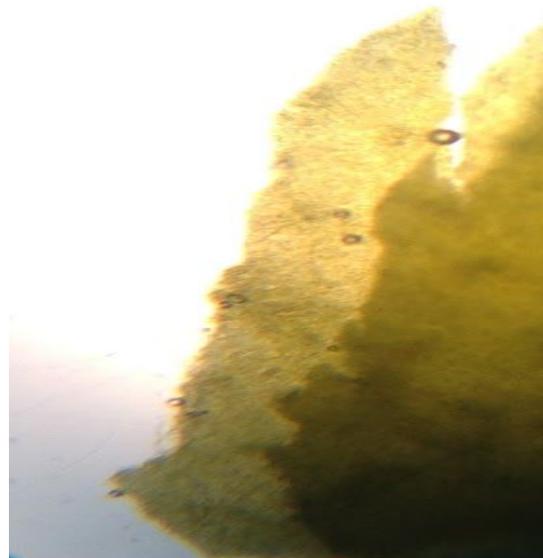
This topic is important to people in my community because “People have been leaving,” beach attendant Cameron Nigro said in an interview with Bangor Daily News. “They’ll come and pay and ask for their money back cause it’s almost unbearable. They’ll want to leave because they’ll bring their kids and don’t want them swimming in it.”

Scientists already know that the species of algae is called *Dasysiphonia japonica* and it is invasive to Maine, originally from Asia. My investigation will add more information because we will learn where it is in Maine.

A small group of seventh-graders from Seguin house at Bath Middle School took samples of algae from Norton’s Ledge in Maine to learn if the organism has gone that far north.

I did not find anything that resembled *Dasysiphonia japonica* but I did find two algae, non-invasive red algae (*Rhodophyta*) and green algae

(*Chlorophyta*). However, two other students found a very minuscule amount of what could possibly be *Dasysiphonia japonica*.



I took photos of my findings and this is how I can tell if it is *Dasysiphonia* or not.

In the photo to the left, you can see the red algae projected at 100x its real size. I can tell this is not *Dasysiphonia* because even though it's red algae, same as *Dasysiphonia*, it doesn't spread out the same as *Dasysiphonia* and has thicker branches than *Dasysiphonia*.

In the photo on the right side is my photo of green algae under a microscope with a lens of 100x magnification. This is definitely not *Dasysiphonia* because it is green algae while the algae I'm looking for is a red algae species.

References cited

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